GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3908
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
MODERN COMMUNICATION FACILITIES .
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have not channelised sufficient funds for state-of-the-art radio communications to increase safety in trains;

(b) if so, the investment required to have modern communication facilities in trains;

(c) whether any interim steps could be taken to use the existing cellular network;

(d) if not, the basic reasons for the lethargy exhibited by railways in meeting such needs;

(e) whether any talks has been held with cellular companies to provide hand-held communication sets on reasonable basis to the train staff; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a), (b) & (d): Indian Railways have provided Walkie- Talkie sets to Drivers & Guards of alltrains for communication between Driver & Guard in case of emergencies.

For safety of train operations, a dedicated communication system for train operations with continuous coverage along railway track is desirable.

Indian Railways have therefore, decided to provide Mobile Train Radio Communication Systems progressively on important routes for communication between Driver, Guard, Station Master & Control Offices for increasing safety in train operations.

Works for provision of Mobile Train Radio Communication Systems have been sanctionedfor 2224 Rkms at an estimated cost of Rs.133.75 crores during 2000-2001.

(c), (e) & (f): The public cellular network at present does not have coverage on continuous sections of railway track. It is also not technically suitable for train operations as train operation requires a continuous dedicated communication system for ensuring safety. Therefore, no talks were held with cellular operators for providing communication for train operation purpose.